

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0959

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OECD SZ

SUBJ: PROPOSED IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: STATE 42891

1. EMBASSY INFORMED SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE IEA DESK OFFICER (MADORY) MARCH 3 OF US INTENTION PROPOSE AT THIS WEEK'S GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MAY 26. MADORY CONFIRMED THAT SWISS HAD BEEN AWARE OF US PROPOSAL AND THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT MEETING EARLIER SAME DAY CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR JOLLES, DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF COMMERCE. MADORY DID NOT INDICATE WHAT POSITION SWISS WILL TAKE.

2. E/C COUNSELOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH JOLLES MARCH 6 AND WILL DISCUSS SUBJECT FURTHER AT THAT TIME. VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER GOS OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN IEA AND RELATED MATTERS ARE ALREADY IN PARIS FOR OECD TRADE COMMITTEE, WP-3, ETC. PRIOR GB MEETING. WE SUGGEST OECD MISSION AND US DEL TO GB MAY WANT TO DISCUSS MINISTERIAL PROPOSAL FURTHER WITH SUCH SWISS OFFICIALS AS AMBASSADOR LANGUETIN, PHILIPPE LEVY, AND JEAN ZWAHLEN.

3. BECAUSE OF GENERAL RELUCTANCE TRAVEL ABROAD AND SMALL SIZE OF SEVEN-MEMBER FEDERAL COUNCIL (CABINET), GOS IS USUALLY SOMEWHAT HESITANT RE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL
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PAGE 02 BERN 00959 041221Z

MEETINGS. BUT WE DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT SWISS WOULD OPPOSE

IEA MINISTERIAL BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO
CONSUMER COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AS WELL AS DIALOGUE
WITH PRODUCERS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT FEDERAL COUNCILOR
BRUGGER, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS (WHICH INCLUDES KEY DIVISION OF COMMERCE),
WOULD ATTEND BOTH IEA AND OECD MINISTERIALS ASSUMING
THEY TOOK PLACE BACK-TO-BACK AND ASSUMING ABSENCE
OF SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.
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